1965

FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS ON THE TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST, 1965

The following is an account of recent insect activity on the Toiyabe National Forest this year. Part of the information was compiled from aerial survey data, and part by subsequent ground examinations to supplement the aerial findings. Information on insect problems covered by previous correspondence is not given in this report.

No new major insect infestations occurred on the Forest this year. Only two minor problems were encountered. They were aphid damage to Jeffrey pine, and water-killing of lodgepole pine. A brief discussion of these problems follows:

An Aphid, Cinara sp.

In May of this year, entomologists examined aphid infested Jeffrey pine in Robinson Creek (see memo 5220, 6/7/65). Heavy egg populations and active feeding of newly hatched nymphs were observed. Additional observations indicated the occurrence of needle discoloration and limited tree mortality of Jeffrey pine near Twin Lakes. Subsequent examinations of this aphid activity were made from the air and on the ground on September 1. Low level aerial flights were made but observers were unable to discern visible foliage decoloration or any other type of tree damage. Follow-up ground checks were made later in the day with Ranger Mitchell and no significant aphid activity could be found. Evidently the aphid population suffered a sudden and drastic reduction, but the reason for the unexpected decline is unknown. The area will be covered carefully again next year.

Dying Lodgepole Pine

Spring and summer flooding killed some lodgepole pine trees in several areas. The most extensive damage was noted in the bottom of Buckeye Creek extending from the western edge of Buckeye Meadows to the upper confluence of the North and South Forks. Additional water killing was observed in Robinson Canyon, approximately two miles above the upper lake, and in the Walker River bottoms, almost due east of the upper Chain of Lakes. The latter patch of dead lodgepole was in a flooded area backed up by a large beaver dam. It is quite possible that many of the affected trees have been attacked by secondary bark beetles and other wood boring insects. These insects, however, are not a threat to adjacent live timber stands.